

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/730,968

Examiner

David García Cervetti

Applicant(s)

ASOH ET AL.

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included with (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

☒ This communication is responsive to 9/11/07.

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4,5,7,8 and 10-12.

☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/730,971.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/7/07

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

/David García Cervetti/

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments filed September 11, 2007, have been fully considered.
2. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 10-12 are pending and have been examined. Claims 3, 6, and 9 have been cancelled.

Response to Amendment

3. The objection to the specification is withdrawn.
4. The objections to claims 4 and 12 are withdrawn.
5. The rejection of claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn.
6. The rejection of claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is withdrawn.
7. The double patenting rejection over claims 1-15 of copending Application No. 10/730,971 is withdrawn in view of the Terminal Disclaimer filed 9/11/2007.

Terminal Disclaimer

8. The terminal disclaimer filed on 9/11/2007 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Application 10/730,971 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 10-12 are allowed;
 - regarding independent claims 1, 5, and 10, the prior art of record neither alone nor in combination teach "detecting that the external storage device is

connected to the computer and checking whether or not an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device; if an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device, reading the encrypted data file, decrypting the encrypted data file using a passphrase preset and held by predetermined storage means, and storing the decrypted data file in the external storage device; reading and encrypting with a user passphrase the predetermined data file stored in the external storage device and storing the encrypted data file in the external storage device, if the ejection request has been issued, wherein the user inputs the user passphrase and the data file is encrypted with an algorithm selected from RC2, RC4, RC5, RC6, 3DES and AES encryption algorithms" in combination with the other limitations recited in independent claims 1, 5, and 10;

- claims 2 and 4, 7-8, and 11-12 are allowed because of their dependence from independent claims 1, 5, and 10, respectively.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

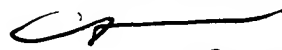
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David García Cervetti whose telephone number is (571)272-5861. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday.

12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nasser Moazzami can be reached on (571)272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David García Cervetti/

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11/19/07